



# SFM Report

*September 2006*

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## **State Fire Marshal Monthly Report to the California Fire Prevention Officers**

**Ruben Grijalva, Director California Department of Forestry and Fire  
Protection/ State Fire Marshal**

**Kate Dargan, Assistant State Fire Marshal**



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Assistant State Fire Marshal**

September is a big month for the FPOs, the California Fire Service and the SFM Office. Plans are busily underway for participation at the International Code Conference (ICC) Code Development Hearings in Orlando, Florida at the end of this month. Many of you who have been involved in this code process are serving as the leaders and Incident Commanders for the team effort. There is a lot of excitement about California becoming more involved with the I-Codes process. And I fully expect that we will be pleased with our efforts this month. The primary goal is to encourage California fire departments to join ICC and become

jurisdictional voting members. We must join to have a vote at the Final Action Hearings and right now California has a population of 33M with 516 AHJ (Authority Having Jurisdiction) members, while New York has a population of 19M and 1,644 AHJ members. Departmental membership is not expensive and your number of votes is based on the size of population you serve. Go to [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org) to become a Governmental ICC member!

The SFM Amendment Package for the 2006 ICC Code Adoption is now submitted. SFM staff, Core Committee members, and I are now in the process of vetting it to interest groups and explaining the contents to anyone who requests. On Sept 13th I will be in So Cal for the joint ICC and FPO meeting, with Metro Chiefs as guests, to outline the proposals. That same day Chief Grijalva will be presenting the proposals to the Building Standards Commission. The 45-Day public comment period has begun and will conclude in mid-October. So, if you are making a written comment, please submit it as soon as possible.

I attended the meeting of the National Association of Fire Marshals this past month in Washington, DC (I know, somebody has to do it...). I was impressed with the commitment of that organization to get prevention out there in the political eye. Firesafe cigarettes are a focus, as is Pipeline Safety and development of the building and fire codes. Organizations like this take our message right to the largest political venues. It is encouraging to see the State Fire Marshals from all over the country come together and work to promote a single concept. They are in the relative early years of this effort and I believe we will see more of NASFM. They will select a West Coast venue next year for their 2009 meeting (2007 is Atlanta and 2008 is Denver), so if anyone would like to offer San Francisco, please let Tom Harvey know :-)

## **Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Vehicle Workshop – October 6**

State Fire Marshal Ruben Grijalva will be the Keynote speaker at this free workshop for fire and community officials who want to learn more about hydrogen and fuel cell vehicles, their refueling stations and fleet programs. Morning and afternoon panel discussions will offer insight into this new transportation system and its impact in Southern California. In the afternoon, a caravan will depart for San Diego. Space is limited. Register soon at [www.RoadRally2006.com](http://www.RoadRally2006.com)

# **Fire and Life Safety**

## **Deputy State Fire Marshal Positions**

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) anticipates several openings in the next few months for deputy state fire marshal positions. Recently 21 applicants completed the testing and interviewing process and are now on a statewide list. That list will remain active for the next two years.

## **Courthouse Upgrades**

The Fresno County Juvenile Justice Delinquency Court will break ground on its \$30 million facility in February 2007. This is the first of 450 county courthouses that will be brought up to code under control of the SFM Fire and Life Safety Division. The SFM assumed responsibility of these court facilities this spring, after their transfer from county control. SFM inspectors are working closely with local fire districts and planning officials on each of these projects.

## **Prison Crowding**

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) expects an additional 50,000 inmates by the year 2027. They expect to have 16,000 more inmates than beds. The SFM is working closely with CDCR to develop “out of cell” sleeping arrangements within the state’s prisons; an example might be double bunking in a gymnasium. The SFM inspectors will assure that this space management is in conformance with fire and life safety codes.

## **Residential Care Advisors**

The SFM Advisory Committee for Residential Care Facilities is now formed and they set their first meeting for Tuesday November 7. The committee consists of 18 professionals from the fire service, social services, health services, aging and private industry. The meeting which is open to all interested parties will be from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the SFM state headquarters: 1131 S Street, Sacramento, CA. The committee will advise the State Fire Marshal on matters pertaining to fire and panic regulations and building standards within residential care facilities.

## **Fresno State Library Remodel**

As part of our statutory responsibility for state universities, SFM inspectors are overseeing the expansion of the library on the campus of California State University Fresno. This \$95 million project includes a new addition and remodeling of the old building.

# **Fire Engineering**

## **New Contact for Fireworks and Extinguisher Issues**

Fireworks Program Assistant Caroline Fudge has moved on to a new position in Human Resources. Yevonne Costa will be the new contact for questions relating to fireworks licenses. She can be reached by email at: [yevonne.costa@fire.ca.gov](mailto:yevonne.costa@fire.ca.gov) or phone (916) 445-8373. She will also take your questions regarding portable fire extinguishers and/or automatic extinguishing system issues at 445-8376.

## **Code Development Unit Enhanced**

To help with the tremendous workload in Code Development, Deputy State Fire Marshal Diane Arend accepted a position there effective this month. Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal James Parsegian will temporarily handle the Building Materials Listing Program. You can reach him at [james.parsegian@fire.ca.gov](mailto:james.parsegian@fire.ca.gov) or at (916) 445-8415.

## **Reporting Problems with Contractors**

The Automatic Extinguishing Systems Program (AESP) in conjunction with the Contractor State Licensing Board (CSLB) has reestablished a "Fire Protection Complaint Referral Form". This form can be downloaded from the SFM webpage <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/autoextinguishing.html>. The form will allow fire and building departments to report problems with contractors that are licensed with the CSLB. Please submit the completed form directly to the CSLB.

# **State Fire Training**

## **The Fireline is Back**

The Summer 2006 edition of The Fireline is posted on the SFM website:

<http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/pdf/training/Summer2006firelineedition.pdf>

The Fireline is an electronic newsletter which will include the latest information about classes, personnel, and issues relating to State Fire Training. When the newsletter is updated quarterly, a link will be sent to those on the distribution list. Anyone wishing to get on that list may email [Karen.Terrill@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Karen.Terrill@fire.ca.gov) and write "Fireline Registration" in the subject line.

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